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Papillon: The butterfly effect of magnificent food

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Aruba's English news leader and ultimate guide to paradise

GOP conservatives shutter House to protest McCarthy-Biden debt deal

By LISA MASCARO
AP Congressional Correspondent
WASHINGTON (AP) — In fallout from the debt ceiling deal, Speaker Kevin McCarthy is suddenly confronting a new threat to his power as angry hard-right conservatives bring the House chamber to a halt, reviving their displeasure over the compromise struck with President Joe Biden and demanding deeper spending cuts ahead. Barely a dozen Republicans, mainly members of the House Freedom Caucus, shuttered House business for a second day Thursday in protest of McCarthy's leadership. Routine votes could not be taken, and a pair of pro-gas stove bills important to GOP activists stalled out. Some lawmakers asked if they could simply go home. McCarthy brushed off the disruption as healthy political debate, part of his "risk taker" way of being a leader — not too different, he said, from the 15-vote spectacle it took in January for him to finally convince his colleagues to elect him as speaker. With a paper-thin GOP majority, any few Republicans have outsized sway.



Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., speaks during the House Armed Services Committee hearing on the fiscal year 2024 budget request of the Department of Defense, on Capitol Hill in Washington, March 29, 2023.

Continued on Page 2

Associated Press

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GOP conservatives shutter House to protest McCarthy-Biden debt deal



House Speaker Kevin McCarthy of Calif. speaks to reporters outside his office on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

Continued from Front

But the aftermath of the debt ceiling deal is coming into focus: The hard-right flank that helped put the speaker in power five months ago is not done with McCarthy yet.

"I enjoy this conflict," the speaker bantered Wednesday at the Capitol, saying he feels like Goldilocks being pushed from all sides. "Conflict makes you stronger if you deal with it."

At its core, the standoff between the House conservatives and the speaker revolves around the budget levels McCarthy agreed to in the debt-ceiling bill with Biden that the right flank of his conference strenuously opposed. The agreement restricted spending, but not as much as the Freedom Caucus and others demanded. Unable to stop the debt bill's passage last week, the conservatives are now digging in for a longer fight to prevent it from taking hold.

It's all setting the stage for a potentially disastrous showdown ahead, when Congress will need to pass spending bills to fund the government at the levels set by the McCarthy-Biden debt package, or risk a shutdown in federal government operations when the new fiscal year starts Oct. 1.

The test will likely come even sooner, this summer, when the Biden administration is expected to ask Congress to approve supplemental funding for Ukraine to fight the war against Russia. It's an issue that splits the Republicans between those who want to cut budgets and those insisting on a strong military. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell raised his own concerns Wednesday about the cap on military spending: "I'm not sure at this point how to fix it, but it's a problem, a serious problem."

While the conservatives have aired a long list of

grievances, the debt deal looms largest.

The McCarthy-Biden compromise set overall federal budget caps — holding spending flat for 2024, and with a 1% growth for 2025 — and Congress still needs to pass appropriations bills to fund the various federal agencies at the agreed-to amounts. That's typically done by Oct. 1. After Biden signed the debt deal into law last weekend, lawmakers have been fast at work on the agency-spending bills ahead of votes this summer to meet the deadline. Not only did the conservatives object to the deal with Biden as insufficient, they claim it violated the terms of an agreement they had reached with McCarthy to roll back spending even further, to 2022 levels, to make him speaker.

"There was an agreement in January," Rep. Ken Buck, R-Colo., told reporters after he left the speaker's office Wednesday morning. "And it was violated in the debt-

ceiling bill."

McCarthy insists the agreement he made during the speakers race to roll back spending to 2022 was not a guaranteed outcome, only a goal. Besides, the debt deal has a provision that would automatically return spending to the 2022 level if Congress fails to put in place all the funding bills by January.

"We never promised we're going to be all at '22 levels — I said we would strive to get to the '22 level or the equivalent amount," McCarthy said Wednesday. "We've met all that criteria."

McCarthy also said he's not opposed to more funding for Ukraine, but he wants to see exactly what's needed rather than simply agree to undoing the spending caps that he negotiated with Biden and that were just signed into law. Democrats watching the fallout from the debt-ceiling deal are mindful of the challenges ahead.

"I think it's going to be tough," said Rep. Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut, the top Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee. "You've got a whole bunch of people who want to cut back," she said of the Republicans. "Potentially they could hold up appropriations."

If Congress fails to pass the spending bills by fall it risks a federal government shutdown — an outcome conservatives have forced multiple times before, starting in the Clinton era when then-Speaker Newt Gingrich led the House into a budget standoff, and again in 2013 when conservatives shut down the government as they tried to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

The longest federal shutdown in history was during the Trump era when Congress refused his demands for money to build the border wall between the U.S. and Mexico.

For now, McCarthy and his leadership team need to just figure out how to bring the House chamber back into session.

The bills on tap this week were not the most pressing on the agenda, but are popular among Republicans and carry important political messages even if they have no chance of becoming law.

Among them is a pair of bills related to gas stoves, including one that would prohibit the use of federal funds to regulate gas stoves as a hazardous product.

House action came to a sudden halt midday Tuesday when the band of conservatives refused to support a routine procedural vote to set the rules schedule for the day's debate. It was the first time in some 20 years a routine rules vote was defeated. □

Lawmakers tell Biden, Ohio perfect spot for Space Command HQ

By JULIE CARR SMYTH

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) —

Ohio's rich history of aviation innovation makes it an ideally suited location for the Air Force's new U.S. Space Command headquarters or Space Force units, a group of the state's congressional delegates told Democratic President Joe Biden in a letter Wednesday.

The bipartisan group Democratic U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, Republican U.S. Rep. David Joyce and six others joined a coalition of the state's business and technology leaders and the state's governor in making a pitch for the facility, as selection of a headquarters city has been embroiled in politics.

"From the Wright brothers to American heroes like John Glenn and Neil Armstrong, the story of modern aviation is rooted in Ohio — and Ohio is ready to meet the challenges of the future," the lawmakers wrote,



A soldier wears a U.S. Space Force uniform during a ceremony for U.S. Air Force airmen transitioning to U.S. Space Force guardian designations at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., Feb. 12, 2021.

Associated Press

in a letter also addressed to military leaders. "Ohio's numerous industry and university partners in the state create a synergy around national security and

space that is unmatched around the country."

The lawmakers urged locating the Space Command headquarters at Wright-Patterson Air Force

Base in Dayton, already a hub for air and space intelligence and research, and partnering Space Force with NASA's John H. Glenn Research Center facilities

at Lewis Field in Cleveland and the Armstrong Test Facility in Sandusky on Lake Erie.

A decision in their favor viewed as a longshot would come as central Ohio makes its move to become a nexus of high-tech research and development. Centered around a \$20 billion semiconductor facility being built by chip-maker Intel Corp., the hub is also set to include a massive electric vehicle project under way by Honda America and South Korea's LG Energy Solution and Ohio State University's new \$110 million software innovation center.

Republican Gov. Mike DeWine and two dozen local officials made a similar appeal for placing Space Command headquarters at Wright-Patterson in 2020, before the Pentagon announced in January 2021 that the facility would be located in Huntsville, Alabama. □

Senators call on TikTok CEO to explain 'inaccurate' statements about how company manages US data

By HALELUYA HADERO

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Two U.S.

senators are asking TikTok to explain what they called "misleading or inaccurate" responses about how it stores and provides access to U.S. user data after recent news reports raised questions about how the Chinese-owned social media platform handles some sensitive information.

In a letter sent Tuesday to TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew, U.S. Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Marsha Blackburn cited a report from Forbes that said TikTok had stored financial information of U.S. content creators who get paid by the company — including their Social Security numbers and tax IDs — on China-based servers.

The senators also cited another report from The New York Times, published in late

May, that said TikTok employees regularly shared user information, such as driver's licenses information of some American users, on an internal messaging app called Lark that employees from TikTok's Beijing-based parent company, ByteDance, could easily access.

Forbes first reported Wednesday on the letter.

TikTok spokesperson Alex Haurek said, "We are reviewing the letter. We remain confident in the accuracy of our testimony and responses to Congress."

TikTok has said servers that contain U.S. user data have been physically stored in

Virginia and Singapore, where its headquartered. But who can access that data — and from where — is an ongoing question.

Chew, the company's CEO, said at a congressional hearing in March that access to the data was provided "as-required" to engineers globally for business purposes. He also said some ByteDance employees still maintained access to some U.S. user data, but that would end once Project Texas — the company's plan to siphon off U.S. user data from China — was completed.

The popular social media app has been under scrutiny from Western governments, who've been wary of the company's Chinese ownership and have prohibited its use on government issued devices. Earlier this year, the Biden adminis-

tration threatened to ban the platform nationwide if the company's Chinese owners don't sell their stakes.

To assuage concerns from U.S. lawmakers, TikTok has been touting its Project Texas plan to store U.S. user data on servers owned and maintained by the software giant Oracle. Last year, the company said it began directing all U.S. user traffic to those servers but also continued to back up data on its own servers.

Chew said the company began deleting all historic U.S. user data from non-Oracle servers in March, and the process expected to be completed this year.

In their letter, the senators also said the recent news reports appear to contradict testimonies from another TikTok official about where U.S. user data is stored. □



Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., left, and Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., right speak during a hearing, Oct. 5, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

Gunman who opened fire after Virginia high school graduation targeted graduate

By SARAH RANKIN and DENISE LAVOIE

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — A gunman who opened fire minutes after a high school graduation in Richmond, Virginia, targeted an 18-year-old graduate he had a long-running dispute with, police said Wednesday.

Shawn Jackson, 18, and his father, Lorenzo Smith, 36, were both killed Tuesday in the gunfire, which sent hundreds fleeing in panic outside the state capital's Altria Theater after the graduation ceremony for Huguenot High School. Five other people were wounded by gunfire, and at least 12 more suffered other injuries or were treated for anxiety due to the mayhem, according to police.

Richmond Interim Police Chief Rick Edwards said the shooting suspect, Amari Pollard, 19, knew Jackson and the two had been embroiled in a dispute for more



A sign and flowers were placed at the entrance sign for Huguenot High School Wednesday, Jun. 7, 2023, in Richmond, Va.

than a year. Edwards said the nature of the dispute is still being investigated.

"This was targeted at one individual. ... That's what we know at this time," Edwards said during a news

conference Wednesday. Pollard was arraigned Wednesday morning on two counts of second-degree murder, said Colette McEachin, Richmond's top prosecutor. Pollard said he

intends to hire an attorney, so the court continued the case until a hearing later this month, McEachin wrote in an email. Pollard was ordered held without bond. Court records did

Associated Press

not immediately list an attorney who could speak on his behalf.

Jackson had just received his diploma at the graduation ceremony and had walked to a nearby park with his father to reunite with the rest of their family when the shooting started, said Tameeka Jackson-Smith, Jackson's mother and Smith's wife. She said Smith was Jackson's father, while Edwards later referred to Smith as his stepfather.

Jackson-Smith told The Associated Press that her and Smith's 9-year-old daughter was hit by a car in the chaos that erupted afterward. The girl was treated for leg injuries and released from the hospital, Jackson-Smith said.

Jackson-Smith said the family had watched the graduation, then got separated in a large crowd after they walked outside. "He was so happy oh my God because he got to graduate." □

Kentucky chemical weapons disposal program nearly done

By DYLAN LOVAN

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Ky. (AP) — A Kentucky facility built to dispose of deadly Cold War-era chemical weapons is nearing the end of its mission to destroy its 520-ton stockpile, a milestone that will likely mark the end of chemical weapons destruction projects in the U.S., officials said Wednesday. The facility at the Blue Grass Army Depot is weeks away from eliminating the last of a stockpile of 51,000 M55 rockets with GB nerve agent that have been stored at the depot since the 1940s. The GB nerve agent, also known as sarin, a colorless and tasteless toxin, can cause respiratory failure leading to death. It is outlawed under international rules of warfare. Another stockpile is being eliminated at an Army facility in Colorado, but that

effort is expected to conclude before the Kentucky one. The two sites have the country's last remaining chemical weapons that must be disposed of according to a 1997 world-wide treaty.

Military and civilian officials

gathered Wednesday at Eastern Kentucky University to speak about the end of the project.

Kingston Reif, an assistant U.S. Secretary of Defense for Threat Reduction and Arms Control, said the destruction of the nation's

deadly chemical weapons has been "decades in the making."

"As recently as a few years ago, we weren't sure we could achieve our treaty commitment, so the fact that we are now on the doorstep is no small feat," Reif said. He said all other nations who joined the treaty have finished destruction of their stockpiles. Reif said the weapons are "heinous" and "the suffering they can inflict is unimaginable."

"Which makes what's being done here in Kentucky all the more important," he said.

Destruction of the Kentucky stockpile began in 2019 after decades of planning and debate over how to dispose of the deadly war weapons.

Workers at the Kentucky facility, the Blue Grass Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot

Plant, separate the deadly chemicals from their original rocket or projectile casings and then eliminate the agent, in most cases using a process known as neutralization, where the chemical agent is dissolved in a solution. Kentucky originally had stockpiles of VX, GB and mustard agent that had been stored in bunkers for decades. The mustard agent was eliminated in 2021 and the final rocket containing VX agent was neutralized at the plant in April 2022.

The final phase of destroying the M55 rockets with sarin has been the most challenging, because of the age and deterioration of the rockets, said Candace Coyle, the plant's project manager.

Each rocket carries about 10 pounds (4.5 kilograms) of the nerve agent. □



In this photo provided by the U.S. Army, workers at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant in Richmond, Ky., begin the destruction of the first rocket from a stockpile of M55 rockets with GB nerve agent, July 6, 2022.

Associated Press

Poland, Germany discuss avoiding repeat of deadly river pollution

By **MONIKA SCISLOWSKA**

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) —

The environment ministers of Poland and Germany met on the border of the two countries on Wednesday to discuss protection of a river against a repeat of deadly pollution that killed hundreds of tons of fish last year.

Polish Environment Minister Anna Moskwa said that she couldn't rule out the occurrence of another disaster despite tight monitoring along the Oder River and the blocking of the illegal discharge of chemicals and waste in order to prevent the growth of deadly golden algae.

"We are sure that we have done and will do everything that we can on our side," Moskwa said. "However, taking into consideration ... the limited knowledge about the algae in the world and ... its aggressive nature, we are expecting every scenario."

"We are preparing ourselves for every scenario the positive and the negative one," she said.



A dead chub and other dead fish are floating in the Oder River near Brieskow-Finkenheerd, eastern Germany, on Aug. 11, 2022.

Associated Press

Moskwa met with German Environment Minister Steffi Lemke in Slubice, on the border with Germany, to discuss ways of protecting the Oder, parts of which the two countries share.

They said the ecosystem seems to be rebuilding after last summer's disaster, in

which up to 400,000 tons of dead fish were pulled from the Oder when high temperatures and high salination of the river from chemical discharge led to the growth of golden algae. Most of the discharge was from the Polish stretch of the river.

Lemke said that Poland's

industry, especially coal mining, should refrain from discharging into the river during hot summer months, noting that the 2022 ecological catastrophe was caused by the growth of algae because of high temperature combined with high salination of the river, and low water levels. □

Spain registers hottest spring temperatures on record

MADRID (AP) — Spain registered its hottest spring on record this year, and its second driest ever, the state meteorological agency said Wednesday.

Rubén Del Campo, spokesman for the Aemet weather agency, said the latest data showed a continuation of the extremely high temperatures the country suffered in 2022, which was the hottest year ever recorded in Spain.

The spring heat was accompanied by a scarcity of rain that will exacerbate Spain's long-term drought, despite some rainfall over the last month. Spain's Ecological Transition Ministry reported Tuesday that the country's reservoirs are at 47.4% of their capacity, consolidating a downward trend.

Del Campo noted knock-on effects for the Mediterranean country's ecosystem. "Surface water temperatures recorded in 2022 were the highest since at least 1940," he told a press conference, warning that

the phenomenon endangered marine life and its ability to reproduce.

The situation inland was also made much more precarious. "These high temperatures have repercussions on both human health

and ecosystems in terms of increased likelihood of forest fires," the spokesman added. Del Campo also issued predictions for the summer ahead, which he said would likely be "extremely hot," though with a probability of some rainstorms. The Aemet spokesman said it was not clear that the El Niño weather phenomenon would contribute to the expected high temperatures in Spain. El Niño is a cyclical warming of the world's oceans and weather, which is forecast to return later this year. The Spanish government announced 2.2 billion euros (\$2.4 billion) worth of drought response measures last month, including funding for urban water reuse and further aid for struggling farmers. □



A woman holds an umbrella to shelter from the sun during a hot sunny day in Madrid, Spain, on July 18, 2022.

Associated Press

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Mexican president: Soldiers apparently executed five men

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's president described the slayings of five men caught on security camera footage as an apparent "execution" by soldiers, and vowed Wednesday that the perpetrators would face justice.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador is a staunch supporter of the armed forces who has insisted that under his administration they have shed any previous tendency toward human rights abuses. He said Wednesday that the slayings in a northern border city last month were impermissible, and that soldiers involved were being turned over for prosecution.

Video from a store security camera that was published this week showed a black pickup truck crashing full speed into a wall in Nuevo Laredo. A Mexican military truck apparently pursuing it arrived shortly thereafter and ran into the passenger side of the pickup.

The occupants of the truck were dragged out, kicked and forced up against a wall. They were later found dead.

"Apparently this was an ex-



Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador speaks at the National Palace in Mexico City, Jan. 10, 2023.

ecution, and that cannot be permitted," López Obrador said at his daily news briefing. "Those responsible are about to be turned over to the appropriate authorities."

López Obrador has given the military an unprecedented role in everything from law enforcement to infrastructure projects, as well as running trains and

airports. He has staunchly defended the army's honesty, but the military continues to be dogged by complaints of human rights abuses, especially in Nuevo Laredo, across from Laredo, Texas.

The Defense Department issued a statement late Tuesday saying it was cooperating with civilian prosecutors in the case, and had

started an investigation of possible violations of the military code. Under Mexican law, abuses by soldiers involving civilians go through civilian courts.

The video, originally reported Tuesday evening by U.S.-based Univision and Spain's El Pais newspaper, is apparently security camera footage showing the daytime incident in Nuevo

Laredo.

After chasing and crashing into the pickup truck, soldiers pull five men from the pickup, disarm and kick them, and then line them up against the wall.

Soldiers then turn back toward the road and appear to open fire. Their apparent attackers are out of frame. Some soldiers while sheltering behind the pickup, turn their guns on the men against the wall.

Later, the soldiers walk around the scene calmly. One, using a red bag apparently to avoid leaving fingerprints picks up guns and places them next to the bodies.

The incident would be at least the second case of apparently extrajudicial killings in Nuevo Laredo this year. On Feb. 26, soldiers killed five young men who were riding inside a vehicle. The men were apparently unarmed and in a report, Mexico's governmental human rights agency said the soldiers had fired into the vehicle without giving verbal orders for it to stop. Angry neighbors attacked the soldiers, beating some of them. □

Associated Press

Fiji reconsiders security ties with China amid Pacific tensions

By NICK PERRY

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand

(AP) — Fiji's leader indicated Wednesday his nation is reconsidering its security ties with China at a time that geopolitical tensions in the Pacific are rising.

Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka said Fiji was reviewing a contentious police cooperation agreement it signed with China in 2011 that has allowed Chinese police officers to be stationed in Fiji. At one point during a news conference in Wellington with his New Zealand counterpart Chris Hipkins, Rabuka appeared to go one step further by referring to Fiji's "discontinuation" of the agreement.

"If our systems and our

values differ, what cooperation can we get from them?" Rabuka said, referring to China.

"We need to look at that

again before we decide whether we go back to it, or if we continue the way that we have in the past by cooperating with those

who have similar democratic values and systems." Rabuka said Fiji was finalizing a defense agreement with New Zealand, which it expected to complete next week. He said the new agreement would allow Fiji's military to build its capacity and skill and be exposed to new technologies. He said there has been a lot of geopolitical focus on the region, but that Pacific countries only worry about militarization "when diplomacy and common neighborly discussions fail."

Fiji expanded its policing agreement with China in 2013 to include some military cooperation, but Rabuka on Wednesday didn't directly address that arrangement.

China has previously said the security agreements have benefited Fiji and it hopes to continue the collaboration. Rabuka won a tense election in December over Frank Bainimarama, who had held power in Fiji for 16 years. Rabuka has moved since then to distance himself from some of Bainimarama's policies, including moves to forge closer ties with China.

Meanwhile, Bainimarama and former Police Commissioner Sitiveni Qiliho, who oversaw the China policing agreement, now face criminal charges of abusing their power, as does former Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, who was widely seen as Bainimarama's right-hand man. □



Fiji Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, right, and New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins answer questions at a media conference in Wellington, New Zealand, Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

Associated Press



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Rufo Wever Music School presents a concert week

This week, Rufo Wever Music School organized a concert week where teachers and students will be showcasing their musical talent in various instrumental concerts. Music teacher at Rufo Wever Music School, Mr. Carlos Bislip, shared some information about this concert week.

Bislip mentioned that this week, the music school arranged a week filled with different concerts. Unlike previous years, when the school would hold a big concert in the large hall of the Cas di Cultura Cultural Center, this time they opted for each group of teachers to have their own presentation every day. Bislip explained that the reason they chose to do it differently this year is that when they have a big concert, not all students get to play much, as the teachers usually allocate one or two kids to play. With this new concept of a



concert every day, each teacher can have more children perform. "That's something that the parents like more because their children get to play more than one song," Bislip emphasized.

As for the concerts, Bislip mentioned that the concert week started on Monday, June 6th, with violin and

guitar performances. Yesterday, on June 7th, the spotlight was given to two piano teachers with their instruments for the children. Today, Thursday, there will be a concert by a cuatro guitar teacher, together with the children's choir, which will have a more typical, folk-like atmosphere. On Friday, June 9th, another piano teacher will give

a concert, but this one will focus more on jazz rhythms, and the other piano teachers will also present the folkloric part.

The last day of this concert week is Saturday, June 10th, and it will be the concert by teachers Franklin Granadillo and Bislip himself. Granadillo will perform with his brass instrument, and Bislip will play percussion.

Throughout the week, the concerts start at 5 p.m., and on the last day, Saturday, June 10th, the event begins at 3 p.m. The concerts take place in the small hall of the Cas di Cultura Cultural Center. To get tickets for the concert, you can call 582-2888 or visit Rufo Wever Music School.

Rufo Wever Music School extends its invitation to the people and visitors of Aruba to come and enjoy the music concerts presented by the teachers and students of Rufo Wever Music School. □



Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals

(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also

face a fine that they have to pay before leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light. Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours! □



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Papillon: The butterfly effect of magnificent food



PALM BEACH — Do you remember the film “Papillon” starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island’s example where ‘life imitates art.’ The décor, especially the restrooms, was inspired by the movie. For more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where ambiance, taste and service come together and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.

“We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget,” says owner Tina. As our special guest you can choose to dine inside our heartwarming airconditioned restaurant or we also offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with great ambiance of the surroundings. Perfect setting for an enjoyable time people watching while sipping on a delicious cocktail.

Fresh oysters, caviar and wild boar

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Let the music play!

Another reason to visit us is our Live Entertainment Schedule all through the week. Get all cozy and warmed up on Sundays and Mondays by Marisella and her enchanting acoustic tunes accompanied by percussion only. On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, Jairo will give you a real Saxophone treat while on Wednesday you can sit back, relax and enjoy your dinner while DJ Jason brings you the most smooth jazz and lounge music for a dreamy night. The musicians interact with the guests & requests can be sent in. The live tunes definitely add to the experience.

Vegetarian vibes present

Impressive vegetarian/vegan dishes are set up especially for the guests by the chef and Meredith from Vegan Aruba. “We offer vegan choices that are really good and tasty. Our daily soup is always vegan too”. What are you waiting for, make sure to pay a visit to this elegant yet laid-back restaurant while on Aruba. You are most welcome!



Chef’s Garden 6 course dinner by Papillon

Our one of a kind executive chef Juan Ludena gets extra creative outside the kitchen of Papillon Restaurant. Serving a 6 course surprise menu featuring his International flavors and creativity with refined dishes, chef Juan Ludena is determined to give you a night to remember. Wine pairing is optional. The chef’s secret garden is located in a local replica of the Aruba traditional ‘cunucu’ house. The tropical garden is the setting for a magical in-home private dining experience.

For more information about this magnificent option, please send us an email or ask our wait staff.

Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino and within walking distance of all other major hotels.

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World Environment Day 2023

ORANJESTAD – On June 5th, we celebrated World Environment Day annually to encourage worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment.

The resolution to designate June 5 as World Environment Day, was adopted during the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. World Environment Day 2023 theme is the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution, 'Ecosystem Restoration.'

Ivory Coast in partnership with the Netherlands, hosted The World Environment Day 2023 celebrations with as theme 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.

Because of human actions,

governments and commerce take steps to combat plastic pollution.

In 2016, Aruba introduced a law that prohibits the use of plastic bags, and in 2019 it introduced a law on Environmentally harmful products, prohibiting, among others, the import, distribution, and use of single-use plastic products, like forks, plates, and cups. It includes an amendment to the General Police Ordinance (Algemene Politie Verordening), that prohibits releasing balloons in the open air.

The responsibility for the environment is not only a government task. Our

community must be more proactive and change its consumption habits to be more environment-friendly. Demand for eco-friendly products will encourage commerce to adapt their products y be more innovative.

Most products have plastic components, common and cheap to produce, flexible and easy to transport, and derived from fossil fuel, one of the primary pollution causes.

If we do not take action now to curb plastic production, in 2060, the amount of plastic in the circular will triple. Plastic pollution hurts our ecosystem, life, health

and well-being, and world-wide economy. It is the reason we must change from a linear to a circular economy that is more sustainable and healthy.

What can we do today to combat plastic pollution? Choose reusable and non-

plastic products; ask your restaurant, supermarket, and importer to change to sustainable products; demand responsible waste management; encourage and support circular economy policymakers.□



Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.



Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from our visitors Michael



McIntosh from Marlton, New Jersey and Nancy Kukulinsky Bascom.

Michael McIntosh wrote to us saying; "Aruba to me is the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow."

Nancy Kukulinsky Bascom wrote to us saying; "Aruba means to us tour-

ing the Caves in Arikok National Park with Nila and John Crouch and Nancy and George Bascom of Kentucky.

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers!□

Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas



SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the

early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural

influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of



Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barber-shop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment. Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that

is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable.

As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □

Unique fauna of Aruba

For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.

Cascabel (rattlesnake, *Crotalus durissus unicolor*)

According to the Arikok National Park, Aruba knows two kinds of snakes, the Santanero and the Cascabel. The cascabel belongs to the rattlesnake family. The cascabel is the only venomous snake from Aruba. It has a length of 65cm to 100cm, and is about 4 to 5cm wide. Its color varies from light brown to grey-brown, and its underbelly is white. On its back there are marks that are a little darker, in the shape of diamonds.

Its reproduction is oviparous, meaning the offspring can hatch from their eggs just before, during or immediately after laying.

The cascabel lives mainly in the Arikok National Park. It likes to live in dark places, and is thus found hidden among the limestone rocks and under stones. As a defense mechanism, the cascabel uses its rattle as a warning, and it is not an aggressive animal.

The cascabel feeds on lizards, small mammals such as rats and mice. It paralyzes or kills its prey with its venom, which is injected through a bite. The enemies of the cascabel are donkeys, goats, humans

and cars. Humans are the biggest enemy of the cascabel, as they kill them and destroy their habitat for urbanization.

Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia arubensis*)

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later in the day and at night for hunting. These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing. The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light brown in color, with many white spots. The belly of the Shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color.

The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground. If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid – a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks. The shoco owl takes care of the owlets for three months until they leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years.

Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and lizards, and the main

threats to their survival are boas – an invasive species introduced by humans as pets – and humans through destruction of their habitat.

Prikichi (parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found, but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found along the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The parakeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing population.

The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black.

Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.

Conew (cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus nigro-*



nuchalis)

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) was probably brought over to the island by Indian settlers thousands of years ago as a source of food. This rabbit, locally known as Conew, has spread all over the island and has become part of our ecosystem. The very adaptable Conew can live in a wide variety of habitats, including Aruba's xeric scrublands, where it typically grazes on weeds and grasses.

The Aruban Conew has a brownish grey color and a distinctive white belly. This white fur extends to the bottom of the tail which becomes visible as the rabbit runs. These rabbits can grow up to approximately 40 centimeters in length over their short lifespan of 3 years. Cottontail rabbits reach reproductive maturity when they are just 2 to 3 months old. A female rabbit, called a doe, finds a suitable nest spot under a shrub or rocks and lines it with fur. She can have an average of 3 to 4 litters per year averaging 5 young each. The doe only visits her young once or twice a day to nurse her babies for a period of 2 to 3 weeks.

The young reach independence at 4 to 5 weeks.

The Aruban Conew is an endangered species and protected by Aruban law. The Conew is thought to have drastically declined due to an increase in human activities, habitat fragmentation and predation by the invasive Boa constrictor as well as feral cats and dogs. However, recently there seem to be more rabbit sightings in rural and wilderness areas and also in the National Park. This could be linked to a recent decline of the invasive Boa population after the long period of drought. As the Conew can reproduce very quickly, a short break in predation pressure can lead to a fast increase of rabbits. Sadly, the Boas are back on the rise again with the truly wet rainy seasons we have recently experienced. This could cause a new decline in the Conew population that was just starting to recover.

These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. For more information, visit <https://www.arubanationalpark.org/main/flora-fauna/>



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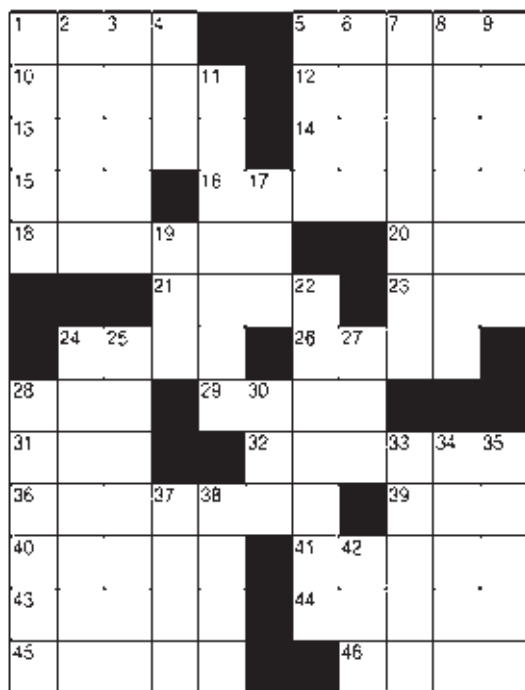
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 43 Deli
1 Pleat fixture
5 Work 44 Canyon's
byproduct cousin
10 Distant 45 Scientist
12 Bamboo Nikola
eater 46 Looked
13 Sorceress over
of myth



Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**
- 1 Con- 11 Tennis 30 Online
fronted great pop-ups
16 Hamlet's 2 Green hue Roger 33 Creamy
home 3 Sophia 17 Important color
18 Broncos' of "Two 19 Energy together
home Women" 22 Conven- 35 Spirited
20 "Golly!" pal tion ID horse
21 Persia, 5 Reach 24 Marching 37 Be a
today across beat squealer
23 Go 6 Cordial 25 Programs 38 Concept
astray 7 Set to wed 27 Racket 42 Homer's
24 Showed up 8 Fans 28 Un- bartending
26 Says 9 Oil carrier assuming pal
further



6-8

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-8 CRYPTOQUOTE

AGDDQ UZT VSD TPNDQXD.
UDV UZT VSD NPASV. VSD
KRQVS RY BHQD VGDKWNDM
NPLD Z WHVVDGYNE.

— OZWNR QDGHMZ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF MY LIFE WASN'T FUNNY IT WOULD JUST BE TRUE. AND THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE. — CARRIE FISHER



The Apple Vision Pro headset is displayed in a showroom on the Apple campus in Cupertino, Calif., after its introduction at the company's annual developers conference, Monday, June 5, 2023.

Associated Press

Apple's Vision Pro goggles unleash a mixed reality

By MICHAEL LIETKE

AP Technology Writer

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP) —

Reporters are a skeptical bunch, so it was unusual to hear so many of them raving about their firsthand experience with Apple's next Big Thing: the high-priced headset called Vision Pro, a device infused with totally virtual reality as well as augmented reality that projects digital images on top of real-world settings. But after wearing the Vision Pro during a half-hour demonstration meticulously orchestrated by Apple, I joined the ranks of those blown away by all the impressive technology Apple has packed into the goggles-like headset.

THE POTENTIAL UPSIDES

But first the good stuff: Vision Pro is a highly sophisticated device that is fairly easy to set up and incredibly intuitive to use. The setup requires using an iPhone to automatically take some assessments of your eyes and ears. Once that's all done, you will quickly find that putting on the Vision Pro is also simple, thanks to a knob on the side that makes it easy to ensure a the headset fits comfortably.

And unlike other headsets, the Vision Pro isn't an awkward-looking piece of nerdware, although the goggles aren't exactly chic, despite looking a bit like something you might see people wearing on a ski slope, jet fighter or race car.

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Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

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Flamin' Hot Cheetos get a loaded origin story

By **MARK KENNEDY**
AP Entertainment Writer

Flamin' Hot Cheetos get an origin story worthy of any Marvel superhero with Hulu's totally engrossing "Flamin' Hot." It's the tale of how a struggling Mexican American janitor came up with the idea of adding spice to the cornmeal, forever saving after-school snacking.

Is it true? Probably not. Don't let that stop you.

You'll wish "Flamin' Hot" was accurate because it's a winning tale of perseverance, family love, proud heritage and blue-collar success, told with a wink, some Cheetos dust and a ton of love by Eva Longoria, in her directorial debut. Jesse Garcia stars as Richard Montañez, a one-time Frito-Lay floor-sweeper in southern California who convinced his bosses to make a snack that celebrates the flavors of Mexico despite a seven-layer dip of sceptics. "New products take years to develop, cost millions to launch and they do not get created by blue-collar hoodlums, who probably can't spell hoodlum," our hero is told.

Nevertheless, Montañez persists, cracking the Latino market and repairing his relationship with his abusive father along the way. "I'm the guy who helped bring the world the most popular snack it's ever seen," he



This image released by Searchlight Pictures shows Jesse Garcia in a scene from "Flamin' Hot," a tale of how a Mexican American janitor came up with the idea for Flamin' Hot Cheetos.

Associated Press

says in a voice-over.

It's an unlikely story, for sure. No, really. It's unlikely. The Los Angeles Times has published allegations that Montañez fabricated his role in the snack's creation and Frito-Lay says he "was not involved." But Longoria and the screenplay by Lewis Colick and Linda Yvette Chávez based on Montañez memoir will have you cheering when the gnarled red snacks finally zip along on an assembly line and you'll be ready to gleefully fist-bump Montañez, played understatedly but with deep soul by Garcia. This is more than just a

snack-version "Rocky" story, with the filmmakers exploring the insecurity of factory shift workers, the stress of integrating into white culture, how hard it is for corporations to innovate and the ability to silence the voices in your head that urge you to quit. In one heartbreaking early scene, Montañez so poor he waters down the milk for his kids and uses chewing gum to seal holes in their shoes is wide-eyed at the Frito-Lay factory until he notices all the overcooked chips are tossed. "People are always trying to throw away the brown ones," he

says.

The filmmakers enliven their story with wonderful flights of fancy, like when we see Montañez lose it and beat up a manager with a mop after being called Paco. "Nah, just kidding," he says in the voice over. "What you think? It was my first week on the job."

To show the passage of time during the Reagan administration, they've also cleverly got a man on the factory floor holding a box reading "1985," the extruder pumps out "1986" and forklifts carrying boxes that read "1987" and "1988."

There are a few references

to Frito-Lay scientists in the Midwest also working on a spicy flavor, but this is strictly a fist-in-the-air portrayal of Montañez alone, set to a soundtrack of Latin artists like Santana, Los Lobos and Ozomatli.

His heroic arc is more than a little unbelievable, especially when he taps his former drug-dealing pals to start handing out free bags of chips like pushers, and for the many times he jumps up on a piece of factory equipment to deliver a "Dead Poets Society"-like speech.

Dennis Haysbert as a gruff engineer, Annie Gonzalez as Montañez's loving wife and Tony Shalhoub as the CEO of Frito-Lay all add welcome flavor notes.

It's the montages that really shine, like the moment in a park when Montañez, eating elote and watching everyone put hot sauce on their food, gets a vision of a spicy snack. "I had been searching for an answer. Or a door to open. And there it was all around me. It had been there the entire time," he says. There's also the sequence when he and his family try every chile combo poblano, pasilla, serrano, guajillo and habanero included until they find the right formula, often hovering around their youngest kid as he samples a chip and gives them the green light. □

Jason Isbell's writing flair sings in latest with 400 Unit, 'Weathervanes'

By **DAVE CAMPBELL**
Associated Press

Further cementing his credentials as a songwriting force, Jason Isbell and his band have created another Alabama-accented earworm of an album that flaunts the power of his voice, guitar and lyrics.

"Weathervanes," Isbell's eighth record with the 400 Unit, is a familiar and predictable amble within the wide expanse of Americana with this 13-track

canvas painted by country, folk, gospel and hard southern rock. While this album stays inside his usual musical guardrails without much adventure into new sounds, it has its twists and turns.

In "Cast Iron Skillet," a soft and wistful warning against bigotry veiled behind old-fashioned views, Isbell strums a sweet tune thickened by the hum of an accordion and his wife, Amanda Shires, on the fid-

dle. Then comes "When We Were Close," electric from start to finish with angry chords and all-star rhymes: "Got a picture of us playing in a bar, and your shirt cost more than your guitar."

Sober for 11-plus years, Isbell continues to tell stories beyond his own trying-to-stay-clean lens. "Weathervanes" further reflects the forever process of learning oneself and how to live and love complex people in a broken world. □



This image released by Southeastern Records shows "Weathervanes" by Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit.

Associated Press

Coco Gauff is 0-7 against No. 1 Iga Swiatek after losing to her

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — This felt like a game Coco Gauff simply needed to claim if she intended to finally win a set, let alone a match, against No. 1 Iga Swiatek.

With shouts of "Go, Coco!" and "Allez, Coco!" emanating from the Court Philippe Chatrier stands, Gauff frittered away two break points as Swiatek served at 1-all. Then, at deuce, came the most memorable moment of Wednesday afternoon and, while Gauff won the point, it soon would be Swiatek who seized complete control of this French Open quarterfinal that was a rematch of last year's final.

During a 14-stroke exchange, both women made their way to the net, and Gauff directed a swinging backhand volley right at Swiatek. The ball struck Swiatek's right leg, and she tumbled back onto the red clay, leaving rust remnants on her white dress and arm. That set up a third break chance for Gauff, but the 19-year-old American again failed to convert, and while it soon was 2-all, Swiatek pulled away from there to a 6-4, 6-2 victory.

"I didn't try to hit her. I was just trying to hit the ball hard in the middle of the court, and it happened to



Poland's Iga Swiatek gets back up on her feet after getting hit by a ball during an exchange close to the net with Coco Gauff of the U.S. during their quarterfinal match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

Associated Press

hit her, obviously. I apologized after, but I think she knows that's part of the game. If you hit a bad ball and you decide to run to the net, there's always a risk that you get hit and there's always the risk that the person might miss, trying to avoid you," Gauff said. "If I was in her position, I wouldn't be mad at me, either, because she ran forward. I think when I said sorry, she shook her head, and we had a mutual understanding that that was the only shot I really had." When a reporter asked Swi-

atek whether it's unusual to get directly hit like that, she agreed with the premise. She also said she couldn't be sure whether Gauff had another option.

"But I know Coco is a nice person, and she wouldn't mean it," said Swiatek, a 22-year-old from Poland who is seeking a third title at Roland Garros and fourth Grand Slam trophy overall. "Nothing personal. It happens."

She improved to 7-0 against No. 6 Gauff and has won all 14 sets they've played against each other; that

includes a 6-1, 6-3 victory for the 2022 champion in Paris. On Thursday, Swiatek will meet No. 14 seed Beatriz Haddad Maia, the first woman from Brazil to reach a Grand Slam semifinal since Maria Bueno at the 1968 U.S. Open. The other women's matchup for a berth in Saturday's title match will be No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka, who won the Australian Open in January, against unseeded Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic.

In the men's quarterfinals, No. 22 Alexander Zverev

beat Tomas Martin Etchepare every 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 to reach the French Open semifinals for the third consecutive year.

At that stage in 2021, Zverev lost to Stefanos Tsitsipas in five sets; in 2022, Zverev tore ligaments in his right ankle during a fall late in the second set against Rafael Nadal.

Zverev's next opponent will be No. 4 Casper Ruud or No. 6 Holger Rune, who were scheduled to play their quarterfinal Wednesday night. The other semifinal is No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz vs. No. 3 Novak Djokovic.

Haddad Maia advanced by coming back for a 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-1 victory over No. 7 Ons Jabeur, a two-time major runner-up in 2022.

Haddad Maia is a 27-year-old left-hander who was given a 10-month suspension after failing a doping test in 2019. She arrived in Paris with a 7-11 record at majors, never winning so much as one second-round match, until this 5-0 run.

"One of my qualities," Haddad Maia said, "is that I wait and I'm very patient and I never give up."

Before even knowing she would face Swiatek, Gauff spoke about hoping for that opportunity. She insisted she wanted another shot at Swiatek, who has topped the rankings for more than a year. □

MLB, WNBA postpone games due to smoke from Canadian wildfires

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball postponed games in New York and Philadelphia on Wednesday night because of poor air quality caused by smoke from Canadian wildfires.

A National Women's Soccer League game in New Jersey and an indoor WNBA game set for Brooklyn were also called off Wednesday amid hazy conditions that have raised alarms from health authorities.

The New York Yankees' game against the Chicago White Sox was rescheduled as part of a doublehead-

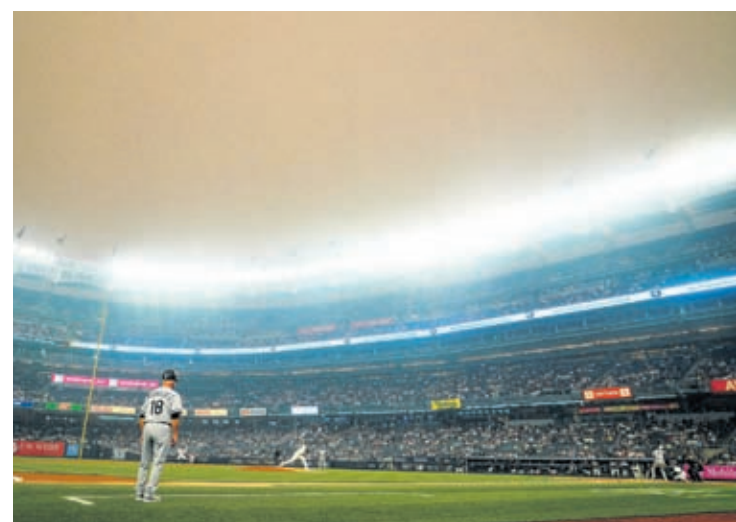
er starting at 4:05 p.m. on Thursday, and the Philadelphia Phillies' game against the Detroit Tigers was reset for 6:05 p.m. on Thursday, originally a day off for both teams. "These postponements were determined following conversations throughout the day with medical and weather experts and all of the impacted clubs regarding clearly hazardous air quality conditions in both cities," MLB said in a statement.

The National Weather Service issued an air quality alert for New York City, saying: "the New York State

Department of Health recommends that individuals consider limiting strenuous outdoor physical activity to reduce the risk of adverse health effects." In Philadelphia, the NWS issued a Code Red.

The Yankees and White Sox played through a lesser haze on Tuesday night.

The WNBA said a game between the Minnesota Lynx and New York Liberty would not be played Wednesday, saying the decision was made to "protect the health and safety of our fans, teams and community." □



New York Yankees' Clarke Schmidt pitches to Chicago White Sox's Tim Anderson during the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, June 6, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

Rory McIlroy, a strong anti-Saudi voice, now feels like 'sacrificial lamb' amid LIV Golf deal

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

Rory McIlroy, the strongest voice against Saudi-funded LIV Golf that caused so much disruption in golf, said Wednesday he now feels like a "sacrificial lamb" with the stunning reversal of the PGA Tour becoming partners with Saudi Arabia's enormous wealth fund.

It was McIlroy who helped lead a players-only meeting last August that reshaped the PGA Tour to fend off the challenge of LIV Golf.

He has been the loudest critic, a member of the tour's policy board. And he was among the last to hear the news shortly be-



Rory McIlroy blasts out of the bunker on the 11th hole during the Canadian Open Pro-Am in Toronto on Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

Associated Press

fore it broke. "It's hard for me to not sit up here and feel somewhat like a sacrificial lamb, and feeling like I've put myself out there and this is what happens," McIlroy said at the RBC Canadian Open, where he is the two-time defending champion. "Again, removing myself from the situation, I see how this is better for the game of golf."

McIlroy was in the player meeting Tuesday afternoon where PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan faced heavy criticism from members who wondered why the tour is taking money from the Public Investment Fund and why they weren't made aware. But the four-time major champion also felt resigned that Saudi Arabia was going to continue investing in golf, and that making an enemy a minority investor would help in the long run.

"I see what's happened in other sports."

I see what's happened in other businesses," he said. "It's very hard to keep up with people that have more money than anyone else. And again, if they want to put that money into the game of golf, then why don't we partner with them and make sure that it's done in the right way. And that's sort of where my head's at."

McIlroy pushed back against the idea the PGA Tour is merging with LIV Golf. Still to be determined is the very future of LIV Golf, the rival league that Greg Norman runs that paid signing bonuses of \$100 million or more to lure players, and then offered \$25 million purses to 48-man fields with no cut over 54 holes.

The agreement — still not finalized — is for the PGA Tour, the European tour and the Public Investment Fund to merge commercial businesses. One of PIF's businesses is LIV Golf, which essentially will be under the control of the new company that still doesn't have a name. □



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